

# FALMOUTH

## UNIVERSITY

### MA PROFESSIONAL WRITING

Dear [NAME]

Welcome to the MA Professional Writing at Falmouth.

We're getting in touch with some important information about your course that will help you as you prepare to join us.

At the end of this letter, you will find a suggested reading list. It's not essential that you complete the reading before you start the course, but if you're looking forward to your studies and can't wait, we recommend these texts as inspiring reading.

You will also find a list of equipment that you should bring with you, as well as any other costs that you might incur throughout your course.

Your academic experience will be predominantly in person with some courses using a small amount of digital resources to support your learning. To engage in the digital learning activity, although you will be able to access IT suites on campus, you will benefit from a laptop to access the platforms and tools we use. You will be provided with free access to the Microsoft Office suite, (including Word, Excel and PowerPoint) while you study at Falmouth.

If you are eligible for a loan from Student Finance and have not yet applied, please do so immediately to ensure the loan is approved before you enrol. Once you enrol you are liable for the tuition fees. You can find more information from the Student Loans Company at: [www.gov.uk/government/organisations/student-loans-company](http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/student-loans-company) Advice on managing your finances whilst studying can be found on the University's website here: [falmouth.ac.uk/study/student-funding/how-much-does-it-cost](http://falmouth.ac.uk/study/student-funding/how-much-does-it-cost)

Over the next few weeks, we'll email you more important information about your course and life at Falmouth. If you're going to be away or out of contact, make sure you ask someone to check your emails and reply on your behalf.

We know there is a lot to think about before you start at university. So, we're here to help. If you have any questions, just get in touch with Applicant Services on +44(0)1326 213730, use LiveChat on our website or email [applicantsservices@falmouth.ac.uk](mailto:applicantsservices@falmouth.ac.uk)

Finally, we wish you an enjoyable summer and we're looking forward to welcoming you to Falmouth in September.

Yours sincerely,

**Dr Luke Thompson**

Course Leader, MA Professional Writing

[luke.thompson@falmouth.ac.uk](mailto:luke.thompson@falmouth.ac.uk)

## Getting started

### Your offer

If you have a conditional offer, your place is subject to meeting those conditions. This means we're waiting to receive your results or some more information before your place can be finalised. You can see these conditions using the Falmouth [Applicant Portal](#)

If you need to ask us anything about your offer, get in touch with our Applicant Services team on +44(0)1326 213730, use LiveChat on our website or email [applicantsservices@falmouth.ac.uk](mailto:applicantsservices@falmouth.ac.uk)

### Enrolment and Student Terms & Conditions

You'll get an email two weeks before the start of term telling you how to enrol online. You'll need to enrol before the first day of term to officially register as a student of Falmouth University and receive your student loan, if you've applied for one.

When you enrol, you'll need to agree to and comply with the University's Student Terms & Conditions. These Terms & Conditions are important, and we encourage you to read them carefully, before enrolling. You can find them under 'Student Terms & Conditions' on our website [www.falmouth.ac.uk/student-regulations](http://www.falmouth.ac.uk/student-regulations)

### Tuition fees (per year)

£8,950 per year - full-time UK

£17,460 per year - full-time EU/international

### Your timetable

Your academic timetable shows all scheduled learning activities and your course timetable. It will be published in early September. After you've enrolled, you can view it via the Student Portal at [falmouth.myday.cloud/](http://falmouth.myday.cloud/) or the Falmouth University App. You can download the app by searching the Google Play Store or Apple Store.

### Term dates

You can find our term dates on the website at [falmouth.ac.uk/experience/term-dates/term-dates-2023-24](http://falmouth.ac.uk/experience/term-dates/term-dates-2023-24)

Teaching and assessment will be throughout the full 15 weeks of the study blocks.

You'll begin your course on **Monday 25 September 2023**.

Your timetable will show you where you need to go and when on Monday 25 September and throughout the week.

This is the week when you'll meet your course mates, course tutors and University staff. There will be important inductions to both your course and the wider University facilities and services.

## Reading list study block one

### Essential:

For your two modules on Story and Narrative in study block one, please get hold of:

- Baxter, Charles, 2008. *Burning Down the House* (£11.99)
- Wood, James., 2010. *How Fiction Works* (£7.99)
- Cobley, Paul, 2014 *Narrative* (free online via the library)
- Yorke, J., 2014. *Into the woods: how stories work and why we tell them* (£9.85).

For your **Professional Contexts** module, please read:

- Brown, Brene, *Daring Greatly* Penguin Life, 2015 (£5.89)
- Brande, Dorothea, *Becoming a Writer*, 2019 (£10.89)

You might also find Catherine Quinn's *No Contacts, No Problem* useful.

### Recommended texts:

- A good dictionary (*Oxford or Collins*).
- Kramer, M., 2007. *Telling true stories: a non-fiction writer's guide* (£12.44).
- For writing basics, Strunk and White's *The Elements of Style* remains useful (£9.99).

### Optional:

Many students enjoy Steven King's *On Writing* and find it helpful for their own practice.

## Reading list study block two

Your reading for study block two will depend on the two options that you choose to take. You will choose these during study block one. Below is a selection of recommended books for each option module, to give you a taste of what you might be reading.

### Non-fiction:

Next time you go to a bookshop look at the huge variety of non-fiction titles available. In this module you will develop reading and research relevant to your own non-fiction project and field. These projects will be so diverse that there is no essential reading for you to do beforehand, although you might find the following titles useful.

- Shields, D., 2010. *Reality Hunger* (£1.35 - £9.99).
- *Creative Non-Fiction* (journal – in library).
- Kline, Sally & Gillies, Midge, 2015. *Literary Non-Fiction* (£1.41 - £18.99).
- Gutkind, Lee., 2012. *You Can't Make This Stuff Up* (£5.36-£9.09).

Also, keep an eye on newspapers, magazines and journals to see what is currently being published and reviewed.

### Business/Editorial:

- Simmons, John, 2022. *We, Me, Them & It: How to write powerfully for business* (£9.99)
- Hicks, W.; Adams, S. Gilbert, H. and Holmes, T., 2008. *Writing for journalists* (£10.56)
- Shaw, Mark, 2012. *Copywriting: successful writing for design, advertising and marketing* (£15.57)

## Novel

**Essential:**

- Highsmith, Patricia., 1955. *The Talented Mr Ripley* (£6.99)
- Winton, Tim., 2001. *Dirt Music* (£9.99)
- Mullan, John., 2006. *How Novels Work* (£7.99)

Students will be asked to purchase two other novels before the start of study block two. Titles to be advised.

Finally, you should of course continue reading in the genre in which you wish to write professionally.

**Scriptwriting****Essential reading**

- *The Coffee Break Screenwriter*, Pilar Allessandra, £16.99
- *Story*, Robert McKee, 1999. (from £17.24)

Watch TV and films in the genres you are particularly interested in, and ahead of the module please watch *Jaws* (1975), *Amelie* (2001) and *Fleabag* Series 2 Episode 1. These are all available for free on Box of Broadcasts, to which you will have access on becoming a student.

**General reading**

- A quality newspaper every day.
- The Media and Books sections of the *Guardian* and *New York Times*, the *London Review of Books*, *Times Literary Supplement*, etc.
- There are lots of good literary podcasts to follow, giving current information across disciplines and fields. You might like to try *Literary Friction*, *Screen Notes*, *First Draft*, *The Copywriters Club*, *Script Apart* and *Make it Make Sense* for a start.
- Industry publications such as *The Bookseller*. These may be available in your local library. When you arrive at Falmouth you will be able to log in to *The Bookseller* using your Falmouth account information.
- The Writers' & Artists' Yearbook is an established space for up to date writing and publishing advice. They have a physical book and this online platform: <https://www.writersandartists.co.uk/>
- For writing news and opportunities specific to the South West take a look at Literature Works and consider signing up to their newsletter: <https://literatureworks.org.uk/>
- The Lit Platform [www.theliteraryplatform.com/](http://www.theliteraryplatform.com/)
- The National Association of Writers in Education (NAWE) is a useful resource for funding opportunities, jobs and events <https://www.nawe.co.uk/>
- For book industry stories and course news follow us on Twitter and Instagram @falwriting, and read the excellent content on [www.falwriting.com](http://www.falwriting.com), produced by our students.

Much of the reading you will be asked to do during the MA will be available online as eBooks, as scanned material, or from the library. Tutors will supply short readings for seminars, and you will be expected to research writing in your own field of interest and to bring recommendations to class.

Meanwhile, you should be reading as widely as possible in different forms and genres but particularly in the genre you are most interested in writing yourself.

Finally, and most importantly, think about what you would like to write. If you have a story, start developing it. If you have ideas for features, think about how you might research them. If you have an area of expertise, think about how you might incorporate it into your work. The MA will go by quickly, full of exciting new information. Our aim is to help you develop a practical writing life and a set of professional habits that will continue beyond the course. It's best to begin that now!

### **Materials and equipment list and costs**

Your academic experience will be predominantly in person with some courses using a small amount of digital resources to support your learning. To engage in the digital learning activity, although you will be able to access IT suites on campus, you will benefit from a laptop to access the platforms and tools we use. You will be provided with free access to the Microsoft Office suite, (including Word, Excel and PowerPoint) while you study at Falmouth.